

REMARKS

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC § 112, first and second paragraphs has been obviated by deleting the objected-to terminology of “said network of continuous holes having an average diameter that is substantially smaller than said average space volume of the foam cells formed in the polishing layer,...” Claim 1 now merely recites that the “foam cells formed in the polishing layer are interconnected by a network of continuous holes between said foam cells,...” without any express mention of the relative sizes of the holes and the foam cells. As the Examiner has expressly appreciated in previous Office Actions, this invention is an improvement of an open cell structured foam. As set forth in Wikipedia, under the topic “foam”, such open cell structured foams “contain **pores** that are connected to each other and form an interconnected network.” Thus the recitation of interconnecting continuous holes in claim 1 finds both (1) express support in the specification (in for example the Abstract) as well as (2) inherent support, as all open cell structured foams “contain **pores** that are connected to each other and form an interconnected network.”

The objection to the specification has been obviated by deleting the phrase “said network of continuous holes having an average diameter that is substantially smaller than said average space volume of the foam cells formed in the polishing layer,...” Thus the specification now merely describes the foam cells formed in the polishing layer as being “...interconnected by a network of continuous holes between said foam cells,...” again in keeping with how a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand the description of the invention.

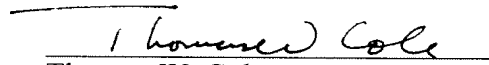
Accordingly, both the claims and specification have been amended to reflect the understanding that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have of the invention.

Now that the Sec. 112 rejections to the claims and specification have been overcome, applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record for

all the reasons set forth in the "Remarks" in the amendment submitted on February 12, 2007, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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